

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CO, PN, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S REMARKS ON COLOMBIA TREATY

RIGHTS RE PANAMA CANAL

1. IN INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR ELLSWORTH BUNKER TAPEO
ON FEBRUARY 22 FOR BROADCAST ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL
RADIO STATION PROGRAM OVERSEAS MISSION (PRODUCED BY
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN COOPERATION WITH AID) FOLLOWING
INTERCHANGE WITH ONE OF PARTICIPATING NEWS REPORTERS,
WINTHROP CARTY, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF VISION
MAGAZINE, CONCERNING COLOMBIAN TREATY RIGHTS IN PANAMA
CANAL IS TRANSCRIBED:

QUOTE: CARTY: SIR, YOU MENTIONED THE FULL SWEEP OF
HISTORY IN THIS, GOING BACK TO THE ORIGINAL TREATY AND
MENTIONED IT WAS SIGNED BY A FRENCHMAN. THE CANAL WAS
TAKEN FROM COLOMBIA. THERE ARE SOME MISGIVINGS IN BOGOTA
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AT THIS POINT ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING. THE COLOMBIANS HAVE

CERTAIN RIGHTS UNDER TREATY AGREEMENT WITH US. WHAT ARE WE DOING TO CONSULT WITH THE COLOMBIANS ABOUT ALL OF THIS? IT SEEMS TO BE A THREE-SIDED ARRANGEMENT.

AMBASSADOR BUNKER: OH, NO, WE ARE IN TOUCH. WE'RE IN TOUCH WITH THE COLOMBIANS ON THIS. AND THE COLOMBIANS HAVE THE RIGHT OF FREE PASSAGE FOR THEIR WARSHIPS THROUGH THE CANAL. AND THEY HAVE SIGNIFIED TO US THAT THEY WANT TO HAVE THIS RIGHT PROTECTED IN ANY NEW AGREEMENT.

CARTY: ARE WE TREATY BOUND TO MAINTAIN THAT RIGHT FOR THEM?

AMBASSADOR BUNKER: WELL, WE HAVE A TREATY WITH THEM TO THAT EFFECT. END QUOTE.

2. WHILE PROGRAM HAS NOT YET BEEN BROADCAST, CORRESPONDENTS PARTICIPATING IN SUCH INTERVIEWS ARE PERMITTED TO PUBLISH ARTICLES ON INTERVIEWS ONCE THEY HAVE TAKEN PLACE. WE ASSUME THAT IN THIS INSTANCE SOURCE OF WIRE SERVICE REPORT WAS PROBABLY GEORGE GEDDA OF AP WHO ALSO PARTICIPATED IN INTERVIEW. THIRD CORRESPONDENT WAS CHARLES FLINNER OF UPI.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S FORWARDING TO COLOMBIA DESK ORIGINAL CLIPPINGS OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN COLOMBIAN NEWSPAPERS. KISSINGER

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